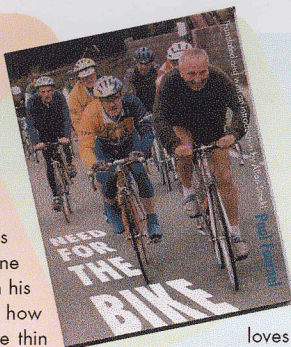


**Goya**

Robert Hughes  
Knopf  
\$40.00

reviewed by  
Deanne Lundin

Robert Hughes (*The Shock of the New and American Visions*), art critic for *Time*, turns his gaze on the compelling and disturbing paintings of Francisco José de Goya y Lucientes and gives us a book that is not merely worth looking at, but one worth reading. Hughes places Goya in his 18th-early 19th century Spain and shows us how Goya protests the cruelty and hypocrisy behind the thin veil of civilization, forcing the viewer to uneasily identify with those for whom another's death means power. The true poetry and beauty of art, for Goya, does not lie in symmetry but in our relentless urge to evolve, a process impossible when "no se puede mirar (one cannot look)" at the ugly, the grotesque, the horrifying and our desire for them. Goya will not let us look away. The subject and author seem especially well-matched; for Goya, art was always political, and the political always personal. Hughes sees his understanding of Goya deepened by his own struggle to survive first the loss of his son and then a near-fatal car crash, for "the writer who does not know fear, despair, and pain cannot fully know Goya."



reviewed by  
Stephen Smith

Fournel loves bikes and he loves the *idea* of the bike, but there is far more to this book than cycling. Fournel is a member of the Oulipo, a group of French writers dedicated to inquiring into the possibilities of combining literature and mathematics, and his book is rich with hidden meaning and subversive treasures. *The Need For The Bike* defies categorization, and by the time you are through with it, dear reader, you will be enamored and enthralled. I am an amateur cyclist, a hobbyist who loves biking, and I count this book among my dearest treasures; but *Need For The Bike* will meet its readers on many different levels (regardless of their sports or transportation preferences) and it will adapt itself to its readers with every turn of the page. It is an extraordinary feat.

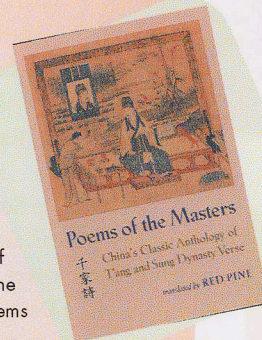
**Need for the Bike**

By Paul Fournel (Translated and with an introduction by Allan Stoekl)  
University of Nebraska Press  
\$15.00

reviewed by  
Karl Pohrt

*I yell to a woodcutter across the stream.* This is the last line of a poem in which the 8th century Taoist recluse Wang Wei describes patterns of cloud and light in the mountains. Just so, the poems in this remarkable anthology speak to us—across an immense distance of time and space—of loneliness, beauty, the consequences of political action, the stillness of autumn. Red Pine's wonderful translations and the clarity of his accompanying notes make these poems accessible and intimate to all of us.

In another poem about watching clouds, Tu Fu concludes, *I've always been drawn to the past/but this time my heart trembled.* This anthology will evoke the same response in any reader. Red Pine and the good people at Copper Canyon deserve a place in the Taoist paradise for bringing us this beautiful book.



**Poems Of The Masters: China's Classic Anthology of T'ang and Sung Dynasty Verse,**  
translated by Red Pine  
Copper Canyon Press  
\$18.00



SHAMAN DRUM



reviewed by  
Julia Cowlshaw

The first volume in an eight-volume Japanese graphic novel series of *The Life of the Buddha* tells us about Brahmin culture and the birth of Siddhartha. Visually arresting, Osamu Tezuka's graphics are hard edged and the compositions elegant. This is a super cool book—Astro Boy meets the Buddha!!

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